



RPA DUES PAYABLE NOW

The RPA MEETS SECOND AND FOURTH THURSDAYS OF EACH MONTH AT
St Paul's Episcopal Church Vic & East A



P.O. BOX 3806, BRIGHTON STATION, ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14610

Vol. 81 No. 3 "ROPEX '81"

ROPEX Banquet

ROPEX '81 Setup will be on Thursday, March 12th, starting at 6:00pm, Americana Rochester Hotel, 70 State Street. Please plan to help ROPEX '81 that night.....

The ROPEX '81 Awards Banquet will take place Saturday evening, March 14th, at the Changing Scene, 1 First Federal Plaza (next to the Americana Rochester Hotel) on the 19th Floor. The Tickets will be available either by mail (-RPA's mailing address) or at ROPEX '81 Setup & show hours through the Hospitality Table. The Cost \$11.50 per person. Checks payable to ROPEX. The Banquet will feature: a cash Bar, Guest Speaker, Awards Presentations, a choice of either Roast Beef or Chicken as a main entree which includes everything from the appetizer to desert. The ROPEX '81 Awards Banquet will have the entire 19th Floor for its use that night. After the Banquet, everyone is invited to move up to the Revolving Restaurant on the 21st Floor to unwind and listen to the best in Rochester entertainment and/or dancing. So for \$11.50 per person ROPEX '81 offers you an entire evening entertainment & dinner and fun! Please make your choice of either Roast Beef or Chicken when ordering your tickets. There are a limited number of tickets available, so please act NOW! The deadline for tickets is Saturday morning.....

Other ROPEX '81 News - The Dealer's Bourse has been sold out since late January. There will be 27 dealers from the West Coast, Mid-West, New England, Canada, and New York. About 75% are new to ROPEX and will offer the widest - variety of philatelic items and supplies ever to the visiting public. The U.S.P.S. will have a philatelic sale booth and offer a special ROPEX '81 cancellation. Covers will be priced at 3 for \$1.25, 50¢ for one cover plus an SASE by mail. Or you can purchase the show covers at the show. Souvenir cards will be \$1.25 mint and \$1.50 serviced for mail orders. There will also be many doorprizes.

continued on 2.

MARCH '81

MEETINGS

- March 12 "ROPEX '81 SETUP", 6:00pm, Thursday evening at the Americana Rochester Hotel, 70 State Street. RPA MEMBERS ONLY will be allowed at this meeting or in the exhibition hall. Please HELP setup ROPEX '81. All the heavy work has been contracted out by Jim Sands (RPA), so members will be involved with helping to place all exhibits in the numbered frames. Bring a pair of work gloves. Coffee will be supplied. WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!!! Also plan to help close down ROPEX '81 Sunday after closing, 5:00pm. At that time exhibit will be removed from frames and packaged for mailing back to owners. WE NEEDED YOUR HELP. The more membership help ROPEX gets the sooner the setup and then close down of the exhibition in the shortest period of time.
- March 26 "RPA Birthday & One-Frame Exhibit". The RPA will be 68 years old! The Theme of the one Frame (8pages) Exhibit is "Spring". The exhibits will be judged and awards posted. This is your chance at trying to exhibit your collecting ability.

NOTICE - The RPA Meeting on the 26th is also the deadline for auction lots (5 lots per member) to be listed for the RPA's Annual Banquet & Auction scheduled for April 10th, a Friday night (no meeting on the 9th of April). Official Lot forms are available at the meeting. The Auction listing will be available before and at the RPA Annual Banquet. Banquet tickets will also be available at the March 26 meeting.

Bulletin

The Postal Rate Commission has announced approval of a first-class letter rate (first ounce) of 18 cents, which is below the 20¢ requested by the U.S. Postal Service.

Other recommended rates include 17¢ for additional first-class ounces (as requested) and 12¢ for domestic post cards (as opposed to the 13¢ rate requested).

The modified rate structure, coupled with the Reagan administration's pledge to reduce postal subsidies, is likely to prompt another U.S. rate increase request within the year.



NEWS

New Plate No. System

continued from Feb.

The three-color intaglio sheet-fed press is the fourth type of intaglio press in use at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. It has been used to produce numerous sheet-stamp issues, ranging from the Dolley Madison intaglio-only stamps to combination intaglio-offset commemoratives such as the recent issue honoring Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan.

This press utilizes printing plates in sets of four, and each revolution produces four plate numbers. Under the new system, the four plates making up the first set will be numbered "1," "2," "3" and "4."

Plates in the second set will be numbered "5," "6," "7" and "8." Numbering will always be consecutive, and plate blocks will have the same appearance as those described earlier.

Two presses are required to manufacture stamps such as the Helen Keller issue. The first is an offset press capable of applying as many as six colors. The second is the three-color intaglio sheet-fed press just described.

Sheets bearing the offset impressions are fed through the intaglio press to obtain the engraved detail that gives combination-process stamps their appeal, notes the Postal Service.

The new numbering system will permit, for the first time, the inclusion of offset plate numbers in the makeup of plate blocks. Five-digit numbers assigned to offset printing plates have traditionally been printed on a portion of the selva trimmed and discarded in production.

Plate blocks for combination-process issues traditionally have borne a five-digit intaglio number only. Absence of offset plate numbers has made it impossible to reconstruct the printing history of a combination-process issue from the marginal markings.

The new system will correct this flaw while assuring four-stamp plate blocks, unless more than four designs appear on a pane. A composite offset-intaglio plate number will be printed across selva adjacent to four-stamp plate blocks.

Single-digit offset numbers will be grouped to one side (adjacent to one stamp), and a single-digit intaglio number will stand alone opposite the group (adjacent to the adjoining stamp).

The composite number (offset plus intaglio) will read the same in all quadrants. Had they been produced under the new system, plate blocks for the Helen Keller issue might have looked like the accompanying illustration, which shows the first set of offset plates (one each color) and the first and last intaglio plates from the initial quartet.

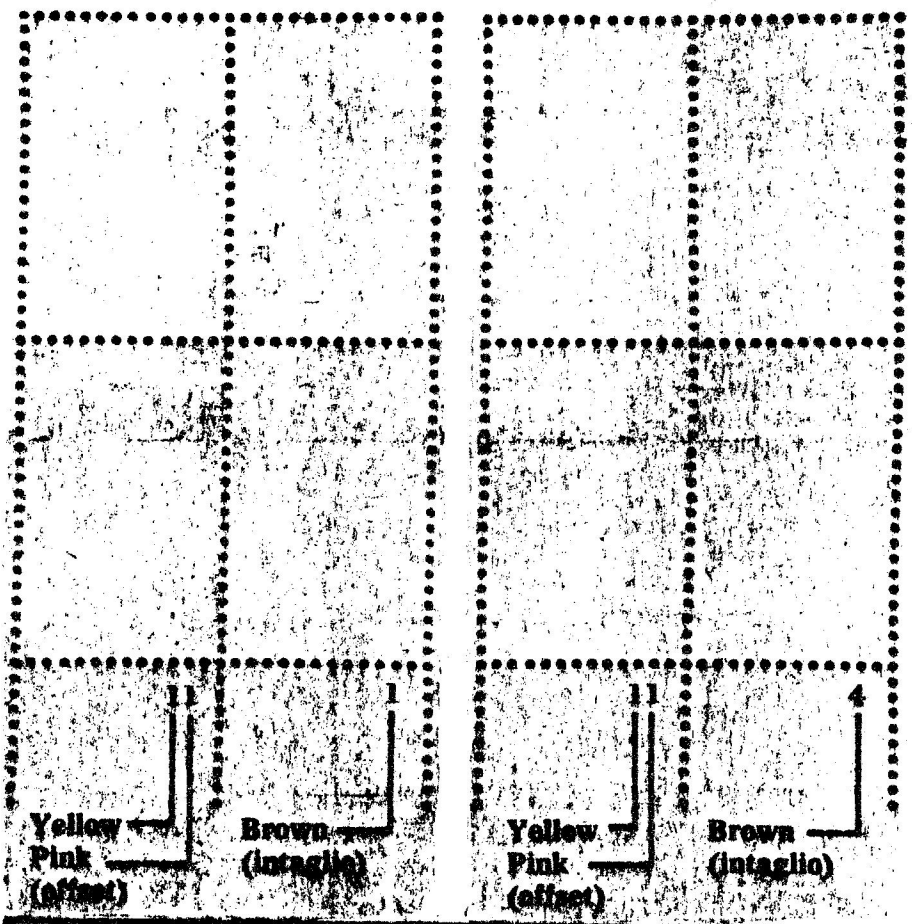
Since the three-color intaglio sheet-fed press utilizes plates in sets of four, one revolution would produce plate blocks with these numbers: (offset) 11 (intaglio) 1; (offset) 11 (intaglio) 2; (offset) 11 (intaglio) 3; (offset) 11 (intaglio) 4.

Introduction of a second set of intaglio plates would result in "5," "6," "7" and "8" being printed as the last digit of the composite number for each press revolution.

Introduction of a second set of offset plates would result in "22" being printed instead of "11" as the first portion of the composite number. Depending on the number of offset colors involved, the first portion (first set) could expand as large as "111111."

Adding offset numbers to combination-process plate blocks is not expected to increase costs to collectors. Offset printing plates are very durable, and one set usually suffices for an issue except in rare instances where plates are damaged by accident.

The Hinges & Tongs is published monthly by the Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc., F.O. Box 3806, Brighton Sta., Rochester, NY 14610. Typed Articles must be submitted by the 25th. Editor: John Kellas III.



ROPEX '81

A total of 212 frames will be on exhibition (thats over 3000 pages!) and in completion with eachother. This represents one of the largest exhibits ROPEX has ever experienced.Please plan to be at ROPEX'81 Setup on the 12th of March starting at 6:00pm. We need your help. Also please help post the ROPEX'81 poster in any of your favorite stores, supermarkets, drug stores, libraries, schools, etc..... SEE YOU ON THE NIGHT OF THE 12th FOR SETUP & DURING THE ROPEX'81 SHOW HOURS. Be sure to stop at the Hospitality table and pick up your I.D. tag when you do arrive at the show.

KODAK STAMP CLUB....March 24th at 7:30pm, Employee Recreation Center, Bldg. 28, Kodak Park, 200 Ridge Road West. Presentation on "Security & Insurance for your Stamp Collection" by Horace W. Harrison, Chairman of the Insurance committee of the S.P.A.... All are welcomed.

1981 DUES

RPA 1981 DUES are now payable. Please use the form and return/envelope. Send your '81 RPA DUES to the club as soon as possible. Members will be dropped from the rolls after Febuary '81. DON'T DELAY.....

